THEY LIVED TOO LONG

A TALE OF THE END OF THE OLD WEST

ART AND DIALOGUE BY
[TREHERN]

COVE SPRINGS, ARIZONA TERRITORY 1899

BAM!!

CHET PASSED NIGH TEN YEARS AGO...I OFFER MY APOLOGIES, WYATT. WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE COMING THROUGH TOWN ON YOUR WAY TO HOUSTON, I HAD TO SEND MAIL TO INVITE YOU INTO TOWN.

SHERIFF, I THOUGHT FER SURE CHET WOULDA PICKED ME UP AT THE TRAIN STATION...

AND WHAT A TOWN; NOTHING LIKE I SEEN EVEN FIVE YEARS AGO.

YOU EVEN MANAGED AN AUTOMOBILE!

AYE, THE HORSES SCATTER EVERY TIME THAT OLD HUNKA METAL BACKFIRES!

BUT THAT ISN'T WHAT I CALLED UPON YOU FER, WYATT...

I TOLD YOU I HAVE NO HESITANCE IN ENDORSING YOU FOR TERRITORY GOVERNOR. SAY THE WORD, AND MCKINLEY WILL HAVE MY LETTER BY WEEK'S END!

No, Wyatt, my mind has been haunted by this gunslinger running through southern settlements. From Los Angeles, to Tombstone, to Bisbee: he's on a killing spree.....

And you want justice?

Justice is an ancient word in these parts; I just want to stop the chaos.

Where was he last?

I had a deputy ride to intercept him, seems he was 50 miles out of town yesterday.

And the deputy?

Haven't heard...

Then we haven't much time...

MIDDLE OF TOWN. A DARK FIGURE. BANDAGES WRAPPED ACROSS PART OF HIS FACE. TATTERED CLOTHES. AND A RUSTY HANDHELD IN HIS RIGHT HOLSTER. THE SHERIFF'S EYES BURN WITH SWEAT. DRIPPING FROM HIS BROW... 100 DEGREES TODAY... A HOT DAY TO DIE.

YOU SHADOWSTAR?

I HATE THAT NAME...

WARRANTS ARE OUT FER YOUR ARREST ALL OVER THE TERRITORY.

TURN YOURSELF IN, AND I'LL KEEP YOU ALIVE UNTIL THE FEDS GET HERE TO HAUL YOU BACK UP NORTH.

I DON'T PLAN ON GOING ANYWHERE...

...WITH ANYBODY.

SO YOU CHOOSE DEATH, THEN?

I AM DEATH.

THIS IS A DARK PATH, SHADOWSTAR!

I WILL WALK IT...

BANG!!

BANG!

PEW!!

HOTEL

BALLS EYE....

WIL!!

WIL, STAY WITH ME. STAY WITH ME, WILHELM!

IT NEVER STOPPED, JACK. I COULD NEVER...

YOU NEVER STOPPED FIGHTING, WIL...

HIS BATTLES WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL NEVER LET HIM REST...

EVEN DECADES AFTER OUR FIGHT WAS OVER. THE GHOSTS NEVER LET HIM SLEEP...

THEY NEVER LET HIM GRIEVE....

SHE IS GOING TO BE SO ASHAMED OF ME, JACK. I CAN'T...GO LIKE THIS...

JEANNIE'S GONE, WIL...SHE NEVER SAW YOU LIKE THIS...

YOU'RE WRONG...I WAS... WRONG.

EVIL SEEMED SO EASY TO SEE BACK THEN. WIL NEVER ADAPTED...HE SAW EVIL IN THE CRACKS OF EVERY TOWN HE ENTERED...AND EVERY PERSON HE MET. IT CONSUMED HIM. THE KILLINGS. THE LIES. THE CORRUPTION. THE UNREST...

WILHELM SWIFT
1836-1899

HE FOUGHT FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ALWAYS LIVED IN FEAR. UNTIL HE BECAME THE ONE THEY FEARED THE MOST. ONLY DEATH COULD FACE HIM IN THE END...

COMING SOON!

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